

calus adonens & Actinella grandiflora are growing finely.

Believe me to remain
very sincerely thy fr^d

Wm Backhouse

York 1/8 mo. 1874

Dear Dr Gray

I should have earlier replied to thy kind letter had not absence from home prevented. I believe that prof. Sargent's letter to which I referred in my last was the result of a misunderstanding on his part, & that had he known the real facts more correctly, he would not have written as he did.

I have sent him a quotation from his own letter of the order we rec^d relative to the unfortunate case of plants, which will probably do all that is needful in the way of explanation. And I endeavoured also to show him that in endeavouring strictly

to obey that order, we could have had no other motive than a desire to please.

It will give me much pleasure to send for your Gardens examples of anything that D.^{rs} Parry or Kellogg send to us direct, when such are fit for transmission.

But it is ^{often} a slow process when they have to be raised from seed.

I am much obliged for the 2 bags (of Fraxinus anomala & Dalea) both of which are safely received.

I have since rec^d ^{from D. Parry} by post a plant of Gilia setosissima which promises to be a little gem.

Do ask for anything we possess freely, forgetting for ever all the misunderstanding before alluded to! To be acting upon the idea even of a "commercial balancing" is a thing which I hate! Though

I do not pretend to be free from human frailty, I have still some ability to realise the truth of the words - even in botanical exchanges or supply - "It is more blessed to give than to receive".

The sending of the Mertensia roots alone was a mistake. It was the Lith^m hirtum that I really wanted specially. The other was quite secondary & not intended to travel alone. I am sorry that D.^r P.'s correspondent was not able to get the Lith^m, for it would have been a valuable addition.

Prinula suffrutescens is improving with me, & one or two plants have flowered. The blossoms are small as yet, but the colour is charming. We have flowered Cacalia leptosepala also; & though not yet flowered, Rauvolfia